

REMARKS

This Preliminary Amendment seeks to place this application in condition for allowance. The instant application is a divisional of Application Serial No. 10/450,238 (hereinafter "the '238 application"), filed June 10, 2003, still pending. The '238 application is the National Stage of International Application No. PCT/EP02/06495. The instant application has been amended to reflect the relationship to the '238 application and to perfect the claim of priority. (See, 35 USC §§ 120 and 121). No new matter has been added.

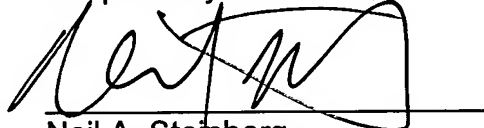
Moreover, pending claims 1-27 have been deleted, without prejudice, and new claims 28-60 have been added to more fully protect certain aspects of the inventions described and illustrated in this application. These newly submitted claims are fully supported by the specification as originally filed (see, *for example*, page 11, line 16 to page 14, line 21, and page 26, line 15 to page 27, line 10, and FIGURES 1-4). No new matter has been added.

CONCLUSION

Applicants respectfully request entry of the foregoing Preliminary Amendment prior to examination of this divisional application. Applicants submit that all of the claims present patentable subject matter which definitely set forth the novel and unobvious features of the invention. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request allowance of all of the claims.

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Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Neil A. Steinberg", is written over a horizontal line.

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